

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4787

1. Name

Historic 2002- 2016 Spark Court
and / common

2. Location

street & number 2002- 2016 Spark Court
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The north side of the 2000 block of Spark Court is composed of two different groups of houses, each built c. 1850.

2002 – 2006 are three two-story-and-attic houses generally typical of a popular type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the late 1840s and 1850s to serve the city's growing working class population. The lower-pitched gable roof allowed for a more spacious upper story, which now could be lit by small rectangular windows at both the front and rear of the house, instead of the earlier dormer windows. Despite its practical nature, this new feature had its roots in a stylistic change in Baltimore's fashionable housing, the small "attic" windows being an important part of the façade design of much larger town mansions being built in the new Greek Revival style.

The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 55' deep. Each house is only two rooms deep. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the sallyport located in the center of the grouping. The houses are constructed in running bond, but two have been covered with formstone. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. The roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, along the outside wall of each unit, serves both the front and rear rooms.

The door and window openings are surmounted by segmentally-arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, and the sills are brick. The window openings are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. All of the original doors have been replaced with a variety of replacement door types and there is no doorway transom. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by two brick steps. A flat-linteled alleyway runs between two of the houses.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace. The third floor attic rooms have low sloping ceilings, with a maximum ceiling height of about seven feet at the peak of the gable sloping down to about four feet at the front and rear of the house.

2008 – 2016 Spark Ct. are a row of five two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street, such as this one. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

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Continuation Sheet

The houses are two stories in height, range in width between 12' and 11'6" and occupy lots 55' deep. Each house is only two-rooms deep. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are constructed in running bond, which was originally painted, but all but one of the facades are now covered with formstone. Each house has a simple brick corbelled cornice, but most are now obscured by the formstone covering. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the house.

All door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. All windows are filled with replacement 1/1 or 6/6 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, but there are no doorway transoms. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light transom, each entrance being reached by three brick or concrete steps.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1850 - 1860

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. Houses sold for about \$500 - \$600 to mainly German-American craftsman and laborers, or rented for some \$8 a month. Most such houses were held as rental property and most were located along narrow alley streets, or along even narrower courts. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite tiny, with two small rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase.

They are still inhabited by working class residents.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

BALTO. MD

PRIMA/R

50

ST.

60

ST.

AVE.

LA. Sheppard & Co
EXCELSIOR STOVE
WORKS

WORKS

+AVE

FOUNTAIN ST.

ST.

-ST

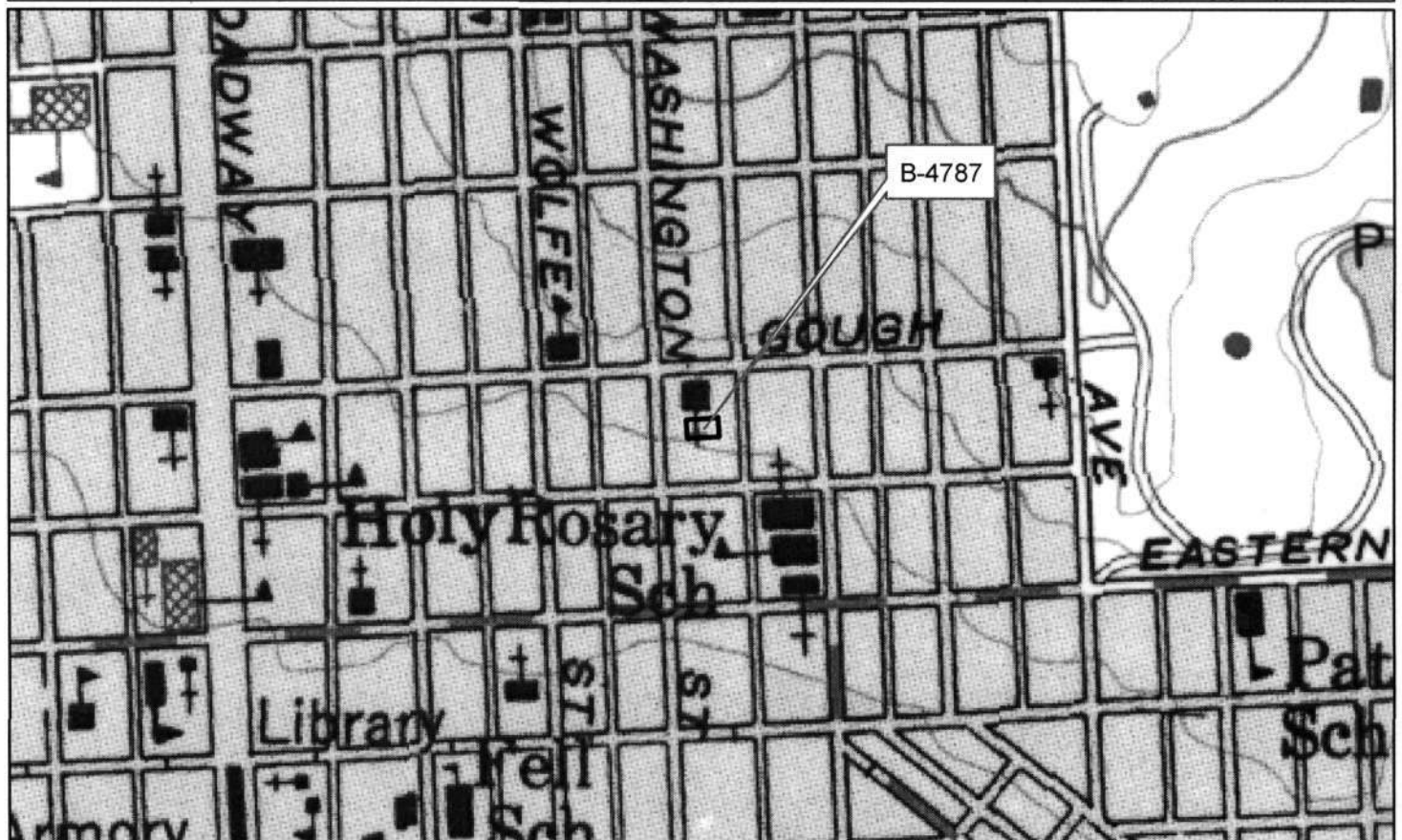
ST

GERMAN AMERICAN
CHEMICAL PAINT & VARNISH
WORKS

NAVIGES WHARF

WAREHOUSE	2104
PACKING	
OVERHEAD	
DRYER & FRUIT PACKING	

B-4787
2002-2016 Spark Court
Block 1765 Lots 082-089
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





2002-2006 Spark Ct
FDG

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2002-2016 Spark Ct.

2011-12 115-

C. B. Jones

7/97

1/3



2008-2016 Spark Ct

FP9

B-4787

2002-2016 Spark Ct.

BA 110, 115

C. Belfiore

7/97

213



2014 Spark Ct

FP9

B-4787

2002-2016 Spark Ct.

Barto, MD

C. Belfiore

7/97

3/3